



City of Greensboro

Melvin Municipal Building
300 W. Washington Street
Greensboro, NC 27401

Meeting Minutes - Draft Public Safety Committee

Monday, March 7, 2016

5:00 PM

Council Chamber

Call to Order

This Public Safety Committee meeting of the City of Greensboro was called to order at 5:25 p.m. on the above date in the Council Chamber of the Melvin Municipal Office Building with the following members present:

Present: 3 - Chairperson Marikay Abuzaiter, Vice Chair Tony Wilkins and Councilmember Mike Barber

Absent: 1 - Councilmember Yvonne J. Johnson

Also present were Assistant City Manager Chris Wilson, City Attorney Tom Carruthers, and Deputy City Clerk Angela Lord.

Moved by Councilmember Wilkins, seconded by Councilmember Barber to excuse Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson from attendance at the meeting. The motion carried by voice vote.

Council Procedure for Conduct of the Meeting

Councilmember Abuzaiter explained the Committee procedure for conduct of the meeting.

I. CONSENT AGENDA (One Vote)

Councilmember Wilkins asked for clarification on item #1.

Assistant City Manager Wilson offered apologies from the staff for not taking the item before Council prior to the sale of the equipment; and spoke to efforts to get the equipment to the community.

Moved by Councilmember Wilkins, seconded by Councilmember Barber, to refer the consent agenda to Council. The motion carried by voice vote.

1. [ID 16-0218](#) Resolution Authorizing the Greensboro Fire Department to Sell Equipment to Volunteer Fire Departments
2. [ID 16-0199](#) Motion to Approve the Minutes of the Public Safety Committee Meeting of February 8, 2016

Motion to approve the minutes of the Public Safety Committee meeting of February 8, 2016 was adopted.

II. GENERAL BUSINESS AGENDA

There were no business items for this agenda.

III. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

3. [ID 16-0239](#) Resolution Approving Mutual Assistance Agreement with Cleveland Division of Police for 2016 RNC Assistance

Assistant City Manager Wilson recognized Police Chief Wayne Scott to speak to the item.

Police Chief Scott spoke to the request by the National Republican Convention; referenced previous assistance

provided to the Democratic Convention in Charlotte; spoke to an established grant fund; outlined benefits to the City; distribution of items funded by the Federal Government; and stated he recommended the item.

Councilmember Abuzuaiter asked for confirmation that the Department would be paid for the services.

Police Chief Scott confirmed that the Greensboro Police paid the officers upfront; that the Federal Government would reimburse the City; and spoke to training and equipment that the City would receive.

Moved by Councilmember Barber, seconded by Councilmember Wilkins to refer the resolution to Council. The motion carried by voice vote.

4. [ID 16-0230](#) Body Worn Camera Update

Assistant City Manager Wilson recognized Police Chief Scott to speak to the item; and spoke to a draft item that would be addressed.

Police Chief Scott stated there would be a PowerPoint Presentation; spoke to a combined effort between the Legal and the Police Departments; and recognized Sergeant Justin Flynt to speak to the item. Due to technical difficulties, Police Chief Scott made the PowerPoint Presentation (PPP); provided current statistics; spoke to expansion of the program; outlined the amount of video captured for the past twelve months; and spoke to video retention.

Councilmember Wilkins asked if the categories corresponded with the personnel files.

City Attorney Tom Carruthers stated the request would be addressed in his portion of the presentation; continued the PPP by speaking to new technology that had not been defined by the Legislature; spoke to three laws that could be reconciled; public records requests; the City of Greensboro public records policy; the need for additional discussions regarding the body worn camera footage release; referenced North Carolina General Statutes; spoke to disclosure of records; Constitutional and Federal Law requirements; and to waiting on Legislative action. City Attorney Carruthers explained the position of the Legislature; referenced a Local Act in Charlotte; addressed privacy concerns; referenced HIPPA regulations; and Federal databases.

Councilmember Barber left the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

City Attorney Carruthers stated legislative action was not anticipated this session; spoke to the Greensboro Legislative Agenda; anticipated cost; referenced redaction efforts for the City of Durham; voiced concern with unilateral action; clarified recommended action; explained legal questions as compared to factual questions; spoke to appeals; operating inside the law; and to the criminal justice training standards mandates.

Councilmember Outling thanked City staff for the work done on the item; referenced a request by Council at the Council retreat; explained his understanding of the law; spoke to drafting legislation; complying with the law; stated failure to act would be costly; spoke to cost estimates; the presented proposal; limitations to review video footage; reasonable expectations; expressed concerns that had been addressed; spoke to a policy that was wanted by the community; added that Greensboro would be the first City in the state that would have such a policy; and compared the benefits and the risks to the City.

Councilmember Wilkins asked if the footage constituted criminal and personnel records; about the legal risk; and if the State would address the issue in the 2017 Legislative Session.

City Attorney Carruthers spoke to seeking judicial determination; the risks of violating the law; combining Statutes to understand the intent of the law; confirmed the Legislature would address the issue in 2017; and referenced a conversation with Councilmember Fox in which he requested greater transparency and the involvement of interest groups.

Discussion took place regarding all Councilmembers weighing in on the item; involvement of the community; discussion from a Panel made up of the American Civil Liberties Union, the UNC School of Government, the Press Association, the Police Union, the Criminal Defense Bar, and a National Police Organization; HIPPA concerns; the purpose of the policy; videos being seen in Guilford County Courts; issues that needed vetting; and

protecting the community and the Police Department.

Councilmember Outling spoke to the cost associated with action as well as inaction; stated the item was an open issue; spoke to a reflection of the political will; and voiced the importance of the Council's close attention.

Councilmember Abuzuaiter spoke to reviewing the information; suggestions from the community; being specific with the policy; and moving the item forward as soon as possible.

Councilmember Wilkins inquired about voting on the item.

Discussion continued regarding the item being for informational purposes; forwarding to Council at a future date; the benefits to a full Council discussion; placing the item on a Committee agenda for additional review; and items that had not been vetted through the Committee process.

(A copy of the PowerPoint Presentation is filed in Exhibit Drawer Y, Exhibit No. 11 which is hereby referred to and made a part of these minutes)

Matters to be discussed by the Members of the Committee

Councilmember Wilkins extended congratulations to newly appointed Fire Chief Bobby Nugent.

Matters to be presented by the City Manager

There were no items for discussion by the City Manager.

Matters to be presented by the City Attorney

There were no items for discussion by the City Attorney.

Adjournment

Moved by Councilmember Abuzuaiter, seconded by Councilmember Wilkins, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by voice vote.

THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE ADJOURNED AT 6:14 P.M.

ANGELA R. LORD
DEPUTY CITY CLERK

MARIKAY ABUZUAITER
CHAIR